

# BLACKS IN AMERICA: AN OVERVIEW



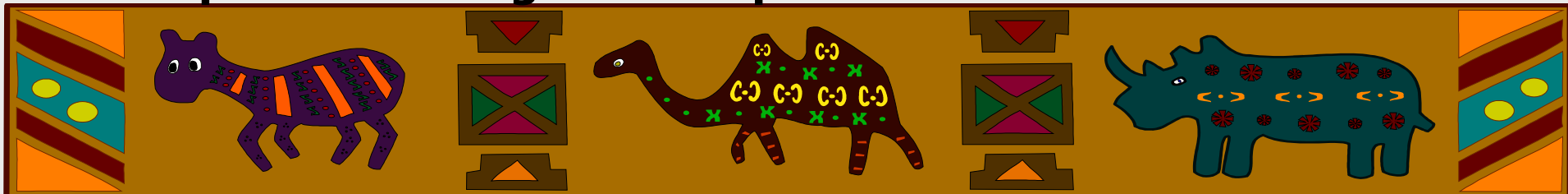


## EARLY WEST AFRICAN CULTURE

**The West African economy was a barter economy.  
People were basically satisfied and saw no point in accumulating wealth.**

**West Africa carried on a vigorous trade with the outside world exporting gold, ivory, and cotton while importing silks, knives, and trinkets.**

**Later, two other items of trade became all important for the future--the exportation of slaves and the importation of guns and powder.**



# **SLAVERY - A BEGINNING**

**Kidnapping slaves from the African coast was part of European practice as early as 1444 when the Portuguese brutally seized black residents and carried them off to be sold as slaves.**

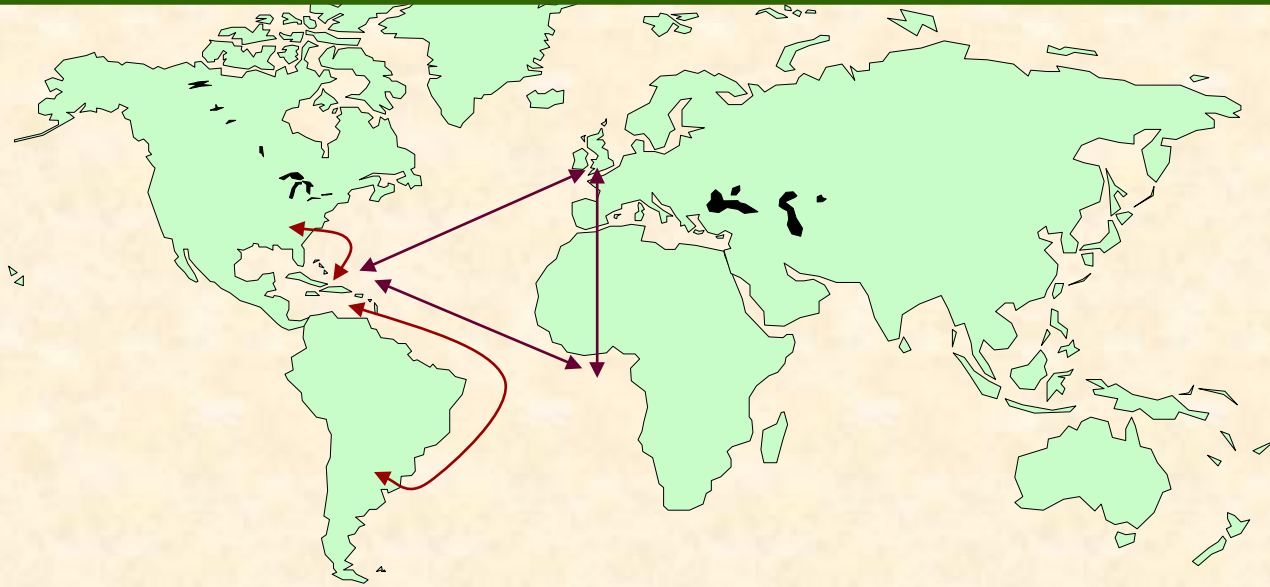
**Soon these Portuguese ships met their match. As a result, the ambassador of Portugal negotiated treaties of peace with African rulers.**

**The export of slaves began to number in the thousands. For 400 years, the African slave trade was conducted as a matter of international commerce among equals.**

**When African kingdoms decided to stop trading in slaves--for their own reasons--there was no way for European nations to force them to continue.**

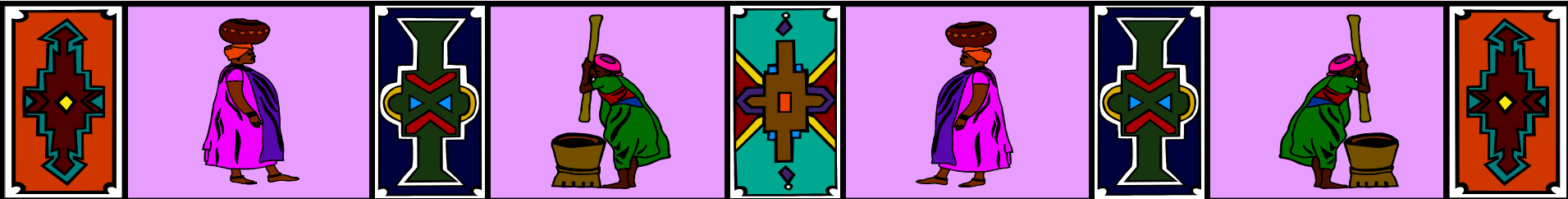


# **SLAVERY AND THE TRANSATLANTIC TRIANGLE TRADE**



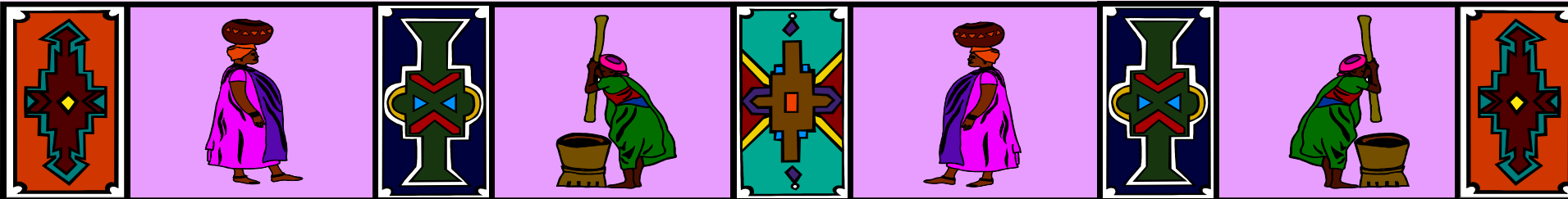
**The Triangular Trade began in Europe with buying of trinkets, cotton, guns, and gunpowder. Items were unloaded at key points on the African coast and used to trade for African slaves.**

**Slaves were then loaded on ships for the new world where they were bought in exchange for tobacco, sugar, and produce. Goods were taken and sold in Europe where the triangle repeated itself.**



## INSTITUTING SLAVERY LAWS IN THE COLONIES

By the 1660s, the system of American slavery became codified in law. As a slave, the individual could be bought, sold, loaned, used as collateral, or willed to another person.



# **BLACKS AND THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR**

**Crispus Attucks: A runaway slave who believed intensely in freedom; he was the first to die in the attack that sparked the American Revolution**

**James Forten: A 15 year old who, upon his ship's capture, refused two offers from the captain's son to escape to England and live as an aristocrat**

**Lambert Latham: A slave and volunteer soldier who was bayoneted 33 times by British troops when he killed a British soldier**

**Oliver Cronwell: Enlisted and served under General George Washington at many battles including the crossing of the Delaware at Yorktown; he died a pauper without a marker for his gravesite**

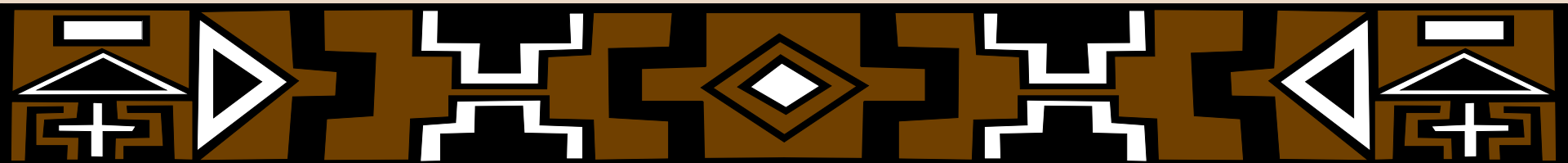
# DIFFERING ATTITUDES

Gradually, the colonies were split into two sections by differing attitudes towards slavery.

The North believed slavery should be abolished, however, racial discrimination was widespread.

The South was dependent on slavery for their economic prosperity. They showed little interest in applying the doctrines of the Declaration of Independence to either the slaves or the free blacks in their midst.

The Federal Government took action to terminate the slave trade in 1807, but a vigorous, illegal trade continued in the South until the Civil War.



# THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

**Refers to the effort -- sometimes spontaneous, sometimes highly organized -- to assist persons held in bondage in North America to escape from slavery. It was every route the enslaved took, or attempted to take, to freedom. It included a vast network of paths and roads, through swamps and over mountains, and along and across rivers.**

**Harriet Tubman: Most famous black conductor on the Underground Railroad -- herself a runaway slave. She made 19 trips to the south and freed approximately 298 slaves.**

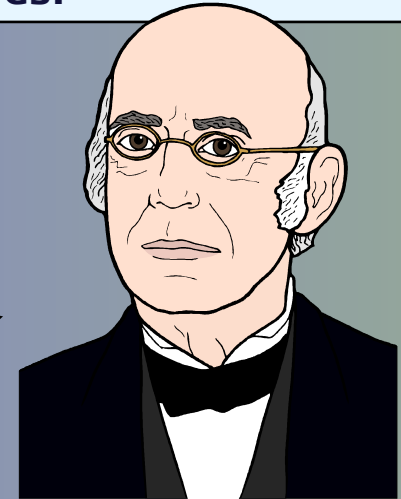




# **ABOLITIONIS T MOVEMENT**

**Fredrick Douglas: Born a slave in Maryland to a slave mother and white father. Became a celebrated lecturer and used the money to help fugitive slaves.**

**The era of immediate abolitionism is generally acknowledged to have begun on January 1, 1831, when William Lloyd Garrison first published his abolitionist newspaper, The Liberator.**



**The publication of Uncle Tom's Cabin in 1852, which showed harshly cruel masters and terrible suffering of slaves, turned many people's minds against slavery.**

**Dred Scott: Lived in free Minnesota territory. Supreme Court ruled in 1857 that his residence did not make him free and that a black man may not bring suit in federal court.**

# EXAMPLES OF THE CASE FOR SLAVERY

In the 1830s, the three largest Christian denominations in America split because of slavery. Reasons for condoning slavery included:

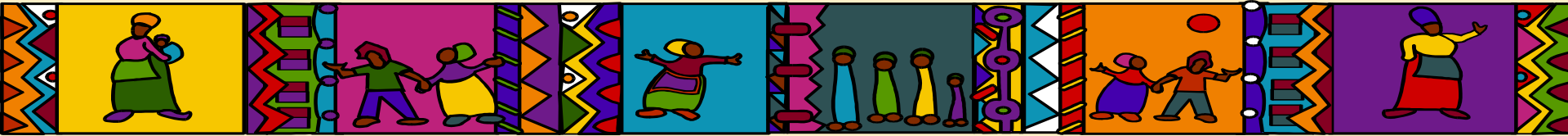
**The Ten Commandments mention slavery twice, showing God's implicit acceptance of it (Exodus 20:10, 17)**

Slavery removes people from a culture that “worshipped the devil, practiced witchcraft, and sorcery” and other evils

**Slaves are treated more benevolently than are workers in oppressive northern factories**

Abolition would lead to slave uprisings, bloodshed, and anarchy

**Christians are to obey civil authorities, and those authorities permit and protect slavery**



**Newly  
enslaved  
Africans often  
ran away in  
groups of men  
and women  
intending to  
form new  
communities**

## **“MAROONS”**

**They were called Maroons and  
primarily ran away to the  
mountains or lived in the  
swamp areas of Spanish Florida**

**They were able to avoid capture  
throughout the slave era!**





# **EXTREMIST ATTITUDES**

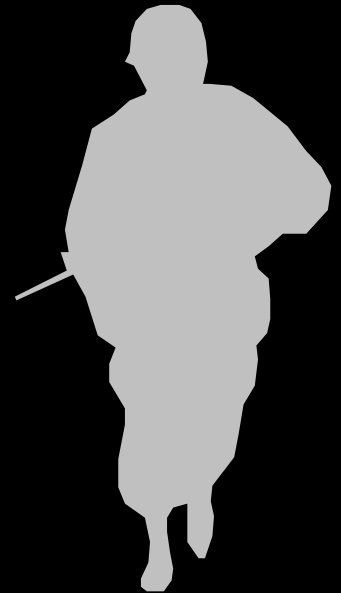
**After several years of freedom, Northern blacks still were not gaining economic advancement, political rights, or social acceptance. Their hopes were fading into despair.**

**The south stiffened its resistance to the circulation of anti-slavery propaganda. Mobs broke into post offices, confiscated literature from the U.S. mail, and publicly burned it**

# **U.S. CIVIL WAR**



**President Lincoln did  
not want to use slaves  
in the Army**



**He eventually allowed enlistment of  
some freedmen, which became a wide-  
spread tactic**

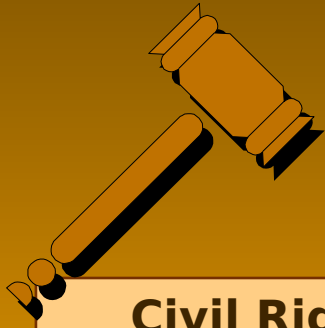
**In 1865, the Thirteenth Amendment  
abolishing slavery was ratified. The  
amendment was approved by President  
Lincoln on 1 February 1865.**

# **THE BUFFALO SOLDIER**

**Legend has it that the Native Americans  
gave the soldiers their name**

**Soldiers spent long hours patrolling the  
western frontier, escorting settlers,  
building army posts, and developing and  
patrolling national parks**





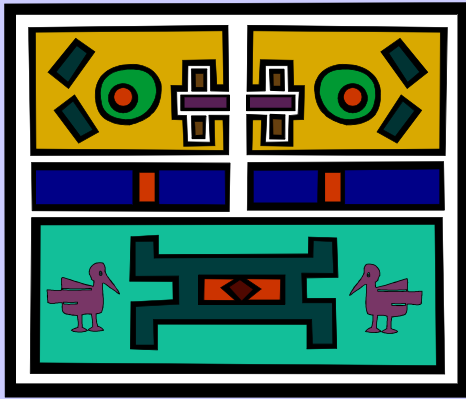
# CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS

**Civil Rights Act of 1866:** Granted black citizens equal rights to contract; to sue and be sued; to marry, travel, and own property

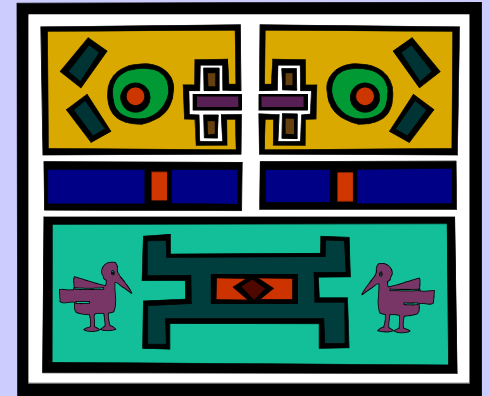
**The Reconstruction Act of 1867:** Allowed former slaves to participate fully in the political arena

**The Ku Klux Klan Act of 1871:** Intended to protect black citizens against intimidation by illegal action in cases where states could not, or would not, provide protection

**The Civil Rights Act of 1875:** Entitled all persons to the “full and equal enjoyment” of public accommodations; this was the last piece of civil rights legislation passed by the U. S. Congress until 1957



# **"JIM CROW"**



***SYSTEM* of laws and customs that enforced racial segregation and discrimination throughout the U.S., especially in the South, from the latter part of the nineteenth century to the 1960s.**



**Jim Crow was the name of a character in minstrel shows in which white performers with blackened faces used African American stereotypes in their songs and dances. It is not known how the name came to describe American segregation and discrimination.**



# **EARLY RACIAL RIOTS**

**Racial conflict flared in many large cities early in the 20th Century. Cities included Harlem (1900), Atlanta (1906), East St. Louis (1917), Houston (1917), and Chicago (1917).**



**Rumors and random acts of violence triggered the riots, which fed on pent-up racial hostility.**


**World War I provided employment and a united effort focused outside the U.S., but post-war readjustment, competition for jobs, and fear and suspicion sparked new violence during the “Red Summer” of 1919**



# **THE KU KLUX KLAN**

**Immediately after the Civil War, the Klan thrived in the deep South. In 1915, it underwent a revival.**

**While the Klan is normally thought of as being an anti-Negro institution, the other major themes on which it was built in the 1920s were opposition to Catholicism, dope, bootlegging, gambling, roadhouses, and loose sexual behavior.**



# **MIGRATION OF BLACKS FROM THE SOUTH**



**When the Emancipation Proclamation was signed, less than 8% of the African-American population lived in the Northeast or Midwest.**

**The boll weevil devastated crops in the south and left many without any form of livelihood. Blacks moved north to find work.**

**In the early decades of the twentieth century, movement of Blacks to the North increased tremendously. Reasons included escaping sharecropping, worsening economic conditions, lynch mobs, and possibility of higher wages, better homes, and political rights.**

**Between 1940 and 1970, continued migration transformed the country's African-American population from a predominately southern rural group to a**

# **BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION OF TOPEKA**

**Great legal  
triumph that  
destroyed the  
constitutional  
foundation  
upon which  
legalized  
segregation in  
the South  
rested**

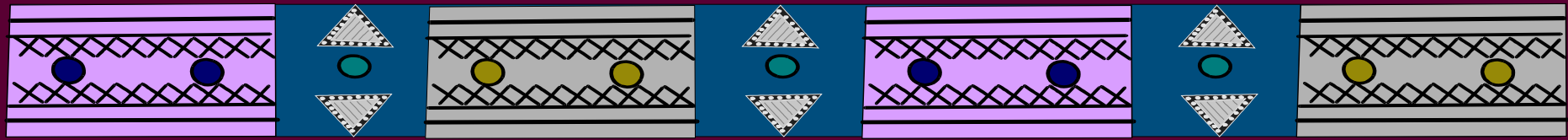


# CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

**Freedom Rides, which began May 4, 1961, set out to not just challenge Jim Crow practices, but to point out the glaring indignities perpetrated against one segment of American Society**



**By the mid-1960's, the movement began to evidence the strains of diverging personalities, tactics, and philosophies**



**Without the power to  
vote, Blacks everywhere  
could not politically direct  
and control their own  
lives and communities**



**The passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act did  
not spell the end of the civil rights  
movement, but its focus and objectives  
shifted**



# **EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION (EEOC)**

**Established 2 July 1965**

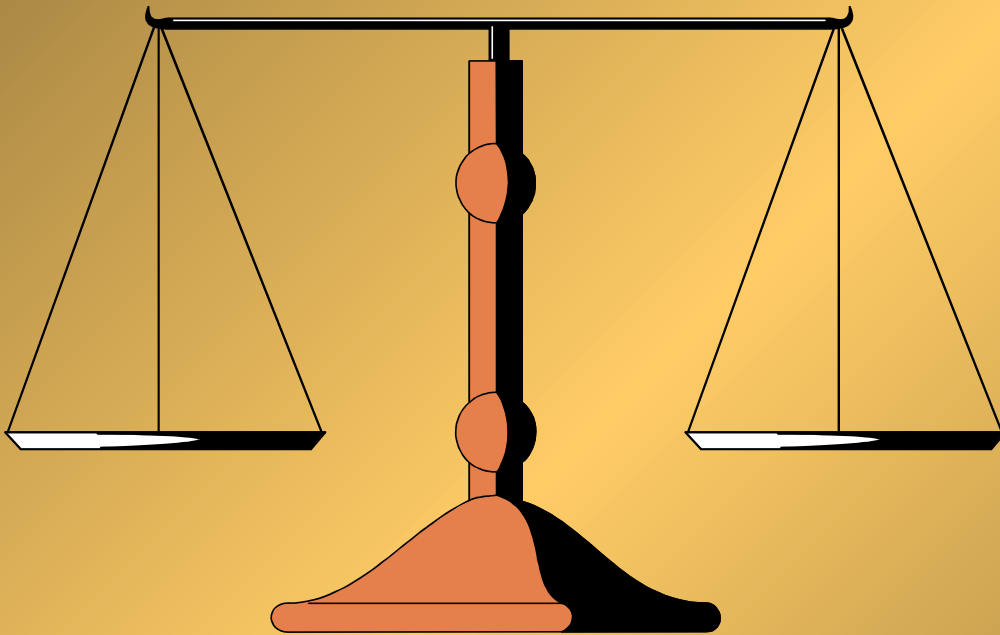
**Enforces principle federal statutes  
prohibiting employment discrimination**

**Effectively manages between 75,000 and  
80,000 charges filed annually**

**In FY 98, EEOC obtained \$169.2 million in  
monetary benefits for charging parties  
through settlement and conciliation**

# **CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION (CRD)**

**Department of  
Justice**



**Serving for the past 40  
years as the federal  
government's chief  
guardian of the right of  
each and every person  
to live, learn, and work  
free from  
discrimination and  
threat of harm**

**Enforces civil rights  
statutes and laws**

**Much of the work  
revolves around cases  
of blatant and shocking  
discrimination that still  
exist today in this  
country**



# **CRD FIGHTING BLATANT DISCRIMINATION**

**Fair Housing testing program uncovered numerous instances in which persons were denied housing based on race. Lawsuits have been filed. In one case, it was discovered that a 300 unit apartment building manager simply refused to rent to African Americans.**

**The National Church Arson Task Force was established to investigate a rash of suspicious fires in houses of worship. As of 26 Nov 97, at least 532 arsons at houses of worship have been reported with many of the incidents investigated being solved.**





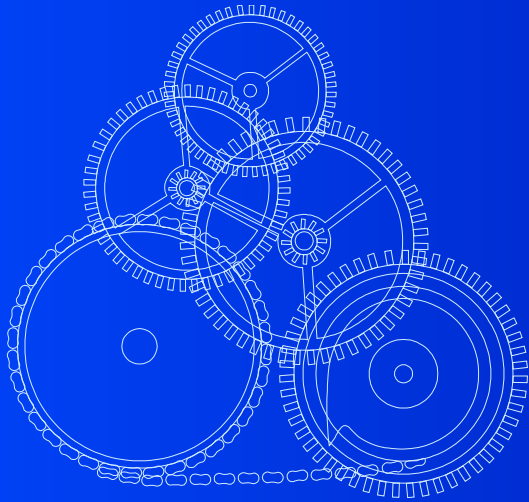
## **FAMOUS AFRICAN AMERICANS**

**Marian Anderson:**  
Known as the contralto of the last century, she sang all parts: soprano, alto, tenor, and bass.

First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt sponsored an Easter morning concert at the Lincoln Memorial after Marian Anderson was banned from singing in Washington's Constitution Hall. She gave one of her most memorable performances to a crowd of 75,000 people.

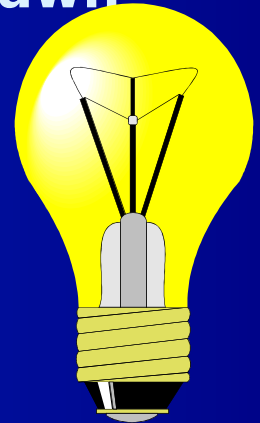


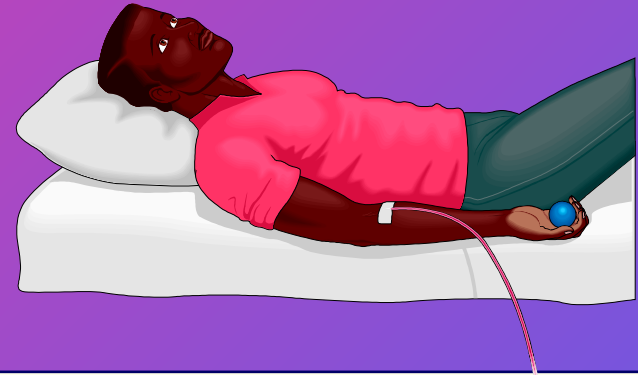
**Rosa Parks:** Tired from her job as a seamstress, she refused to give up her bus seat to a White man. Bus boycotts lasted for more than a year until the Supreme Court declared segregated seating laws unconstitutional. Many people believe she began the Civil Rights Movement.



**Elijah McCoy: Invented a locomotive lubricator that allowed workers to keep machines in full operation while they were being oiled. Before this, the entire mechanical system would have to be shut off and lubricated by hand. He eventually received over 50 patents in his lifetime. Among his more familiar ones are the ironing board and the lawn sprinkler.**

**Lewis Howard Latimer: Only black member of Thomas Edison's team of inventors. He created the carbon filament for Edison's newly invented electric light bulb making it practical for everyday use.**





**Dr. Charles Richard Drew: As a world- renowned surgeon, medical scientist, and educator, he was a medical pioneer by finding a way to preserve blood. He created the first blood bank and developed a way to efficiently store blood plasma.**





## INTERESTING FACTS!

**In 1999, about 77% of African Americans 25 years old and over had completed high school or a higher level of education**

**1998 poverty rate of 26.1% represents the lowest rate since the Census Bureau began collecting poverty data in 1959**

**African American population is young -- nearly 1/3 were under 18 in 1999, versus 24% of the non - Hispanic White population**

**Idaho's African American population increased 103%**

**Jefferson City, MS, and Macon County, AL, have 87% of their respective populations made up of**

**African Americans**

**We still have a dream. . .**





**Note  
pages on  
several  
charts  
provide  
additional  
informatio  
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